



*City of Torrance ★ California*

**57<sup>th</sup>**  
Annual

# Armed Forces Day

*Celebration*

**U.S. ARMY**

*A  
Southern  
California  
Tradition*

**Observance ★ May 20-22, 2016**  
**Parade ★ May 21, 2016**





# EVENTS LIST

## DATES, TIMES & ACTIVITIES

### FRIDAY, MAY 20

CONCERT: 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

On May 15th at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. the Army Band 300 "Hollywood's Own" will perform for FREE at the James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For tickets, contact the Box Office: 310-781-7171. The tickets are free and are on a first come, first served basis. There is a limit of four (4) tickets per adult. Ticket holders must be in their seats 15 minutes prior to show time or the seat will be made available to other patrons. Tickets are available at the box office on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 1 p.m.

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be located at the parking lot just east of the Lifestyle Wing.

### SATURDAY, MAY 21

PARADE: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade begins at Crenshaw Boulevard traveling west on Torrance Boulevard and ending at Madrona Avenue. All streets intersecting the parade route will be closed the majority of the day. Torrance's parade is the longest-running Armed Forces Day Parade in the nation. As one of few cities designated by the Department of Defense, the City of Torrance is proud to honor the men and women of our nation's Armed Forces. This year's honored branch is the United States Army.

The Army will be led by Grand Marshal, Robert B. Abrams, Commanding General U.S. Army Forces Command and Honorary Grand Marshal, actor, producer, writer, director and voice actor, Joe Mantegna

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be located at the parking lot just east of the Lifestyle Wing.

### SUNDAY, MAY 22

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be located at the parking lot just east of the Lifestyle Wing.

# GRAND MARSHAL



## GENERAL ROBERT B. ABRAMS COMMANDING GENERAL U.S. ARMY FORCES COMMAND

General Robert B. "Abe" Abrams became the 22nd commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, August 10, 2015. He is a 1982 graduate of the United States Military Academy where he was commissioned as an armor officer. During his 33 years of service he has served in command and staff positions across the Army, Joint and Department of Defense community in Germany, the United States, and Southwest Asia.

His tours of duty with warfighting units include 3rd Armored Division; 1st Cavalry Division (three tours); the 3rd Infantry Division; and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. His joint experience includes serving as a strategic war planner for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, with responsibility for CENTCOM Area of Operations; and as Director of the Joint Center of Excellence for Improvised Explosive Device Defeat/Deputy Director for Training for Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO).

General Abrams has commanded at every level from company thru division, including command of D Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment where he deployed the HHC in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM; Commander, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment; Commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division where he deployed the BCT to Sadr City and 9 Nissan District of Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II; Commanding General, National Training Center and Fort Irwin; Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield where he deployed the division headquarters and commanded Combined Joint Task Force-3 and Regional Command-South, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Kandahar, Afghanistan. He has extensive operations experience having served as an operations officer at squadron, regimental and division level and as a division chief of staff. General Abrams has also served as an instructor, doctrine writer, and training developer at the U.S. Army Armor School, and as the Executive Officer to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.

His other general officer assignments include service as Deputy Commanding General, Combined Arms Center-Training, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and most recently as Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

General Abrams holds a bachelor of science degree from the United States Military Academy; a master of science in administration from Central Michigan University; and a master's degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College. His military schooling includes the Armor Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U. S. Army War College.



# HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

## JOE MANTEGNA



Chicago native Joe Mantegna has a strong background in both theater and film. Mantegna began his career on the stage in 1969 with the musical Hair, later earning a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play the role of Richard Roma in the first American production of David Mamet's play Glengarry Glen Ross, the first of many collaborations with Mamet.

Expanding to film and television, Mantegna is best known for his roles in box office hits including Three Amigos (1986), The Godfather Part III (1990), Forget Paris (1995), and Up Close & Personal (1996). As of the 2015-2016 TV season, he stars in the CBS television series Criminal Minds as FBI Supervisory Special Agent David Rossi. Since the 1991 episode "Bart the Murderer", Mantegna has had a recurring role on the animated series The Simpsons as mob boss Fat Tony, reprising the role in The Simpsons Movie (2007). Mantegna has starred in the series First Monday (2002) and Joan of Arcadia (2003–2005). He earned Emmy Award nominations for his roles in three different miniseries: The Last Don (1997), The Rat Pack (1999), and The Starter Wife (2007). He has also served as executive producer for various movies and television movies, including Corduroy (1984), Hoods (1998), and Lakeboat (2000) which he also directed.

Additionally, he played Robert B. Parker's fictional detective Spenser in three made-for-TV movies between 1999 and 2001, and has narrated several audiobook adaptations of the Spenser novels.

An avid firearm enthusiast, he is the host of MidwayUSA's "Gun Stories" on the cable television Outdoor Channel.[2] His daughter, Gia Mantegna, has also become a renowned film star.

For the past 10 years, Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise have hosted the National Memorial Day Concert. Mantegna has a deep, personal connections to Memorial Day, dedicating himself to veterans causes, as well as supporting our troops in active service. Some of the causes Mantegna supports include:

### **The Gary Sinise Foundation**

Officially formed in 2010; dedicated to serving the nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families and those in need. Designed to "entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen and build communities" through initiatives like Invincible Spirit Festivals.

### **Snowball Express**

Creating hope and new memories for children of fallen military heroes by bringing families experiencing the loss of a parent together so that they are not alone.

### **DStressLine**

Developed by the Marine Corps to provide professional, anonymous counseling for Marines, attached Sailors and families.

### **Operation Backbone**

Provides the most advanced brain and spine treatment and imagery for U.S. wounded soldiers around the world.

### **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation**

Dedicated to constructing the nation's first, permanent, national tribute to America's disabled veterans.

### **Air Compassion for Veterans**

Serves to ensure that no financially-stressed wounded warrior, veteran, or adversely affected family member is denied access to distant, specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, counseling, rehabilitation, healing and restorative programs, and programs assisting with reintegration into a productive life.

### **Hope for the Warriors**

Works to enhance the quality of life for post-9/11 service members, their families and families of the fallen who have sustained physical and psychological wounds in the line of duty

# CONCERT BAND



## THE ARMY 300<sup>TH</sup> BAND "Hollywood's Own"

The 300th Army Band - southern California's only Army Reserve Band - is a 40-member instrumental ensemble and is a subordinate unit of the U.S. Army Reserve and the 63rd Regional Support Command. Under the direction of CW2 Jeff Smith, the band travels coast-to-coast performing in a wide variety of settings, including military ceremonies, formal public concerts, school assemblies, educational outreach programs, festivals, and radio and television appearances. The primary mission of the 300th, along with all Army Bands, is to foster the support of the American people for members of the Armed Forces, support diplomatic efforts around the world, and to instill in our Soldiers the will to fight and win.

Performing a diverse repertoire of marches, classical band literature, overtures, popular music, patriotic selections, and instrumental and vocal solos, the 300th Army Band consists of multiple performing components. The Concert Band is the group's "flagship" ensemble, and is perhaps the most recognizable part of the organization. However, each of the band's other performing groups - including a Classic Rock band, Ska Band, Brass Quintet, Woodwind Trio, and Percussion Ensemble - delivers versatile and thrilling musical performances for audiences of all ages.

The Soldier-musicians of the 300th Army Band come from all walks of life. As Army Reservists, they have other full-time careers or educational endeavors, and many travel as far as 100 miles or more to participate in the band's monthly rehearsals and performances. Each member is selected via audition and must pass eligibility requirements for enlistment into the U.S. Army. Once enlisted, Soldiers complete "Basic Training" as well 10 weeks of Advanced Individual Training at the Army School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to being a musical ensemble, The 300th Army Band is a military unit. Therefore, its Soldiers must be trained in and maintain all basic war-fighting skills, including weapons qualification, physical fitness, and first aid.

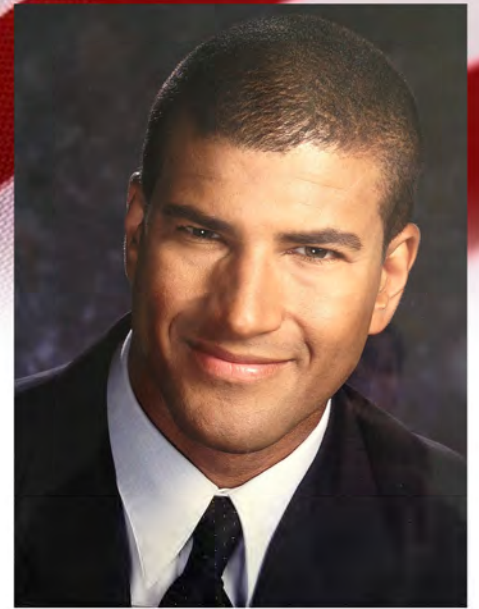
The history of the 300th Army Band began on December 1, 1943 when it was activated in London, England. The unit would later become known as the 300th Army Ground Forces Band when it was reorganized on May 29, 1944. The band played throughout Europe in support of WWII operations before being inactivated on November 30, 1946 in Germany. In May of 1947, the band was redesignated as the 300th Army Band, and remained as such throughout the 50's and 60's. Then, in 1968, the band was transferred to the Army Reserves, assigned to the Sixth Army, and activated in Bell, California. The band would change locations two more times before once again settling at its current home in the city of Bell.

Today, The 300th primarily performs throughout the southwest region of the United States. However, in recent years, the band has also supported operations at Ft. Carson, CO, Ft. Campbell, KY, Ft. Sam Houston, TX, and Ft. Riley, KS. The 300th was also one of only two Army Reserve bands selected to provide musical support for "Operation: New Horizons" in El Salvador and Panama. Other recent highlights include performances for President Gerald Ford, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; actors Jon Voight, Gary Sinise, and William Shatner; sports teams the LA Dodgers, the Arizona Diamondbacks, and the San Jose Earthquakes; as well as music festivals and concert halls throughout the nation. Regardless of the venue, the 300th Army Band strives to entertain, to inspire, and to use the power of music to instill in the listener a deep sense of pride in our American heritage.



# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

## EMMETT MILLER



Emmett Miller is an award winning journalist, now serving as a freelance National News Correspondent for ABC News. Prior to ABC, Emmett spent 11-years with KTLA 5 in Los Angeles, anchoring both the morning show and the 10 O'clock News, after the passing of longtime icon Hal Fishman. He's had the honor of interviewing President Barack Obama twice; first as Senator in 2006, and then as President of the United States in 2011, for which he was honored with the prestigious Walter Cronkite Award. Emmett's anchoring career has included cities such as Chicago, Boston and Cleveland, and hosting credits include, the KTLA Rose Parade, "Genealogy Roadshow," for PBS and Krasnow Productions, "Strange Universe," for Rysher Entertainment/UPN, and several feature film appearances as an anchor or reporter (The Last Don, The Inferno, Wag the Dog).

In 2013, Emmett received the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism for his interviews with President Obama, "President Obama Answers Black America," and Herman Cain, "The Curious Case of Citizen Cain." Emmett Miller is also the recipient of 5 Emmy Awards, a Golden Mike, and 2 Associated Press awards for Investigative Journalism and Enterprise Journalism. In 1989, he produced a series of reports uncovering systematic corruption within the office of Housing and Urban Development in Jackson, Mississippi, leading to the office's closure and a federal investigation.



# MEDIA ACCESS

## **CITY OF TORRANCE**

57th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration

### MEDIA ACCESS

Members of the press must have an official press pass to gain access to the event sites and personnel.

The City of Torrance Public Information Team will work closely with members of the media who are interested in covering the celebration. We will make every effort to fulfill your needs.

Media representatives should contact:  
Sergeant Paul Kranke at 310-618-5688 or contact

Jamie Le at the Office of Cable and Community Relations at 310-618-5762  
for further information.

During the celebration, media access includes:  
Monday, May 16 through Saturday, May 21, 2016

Access to parade planners from the Torrance Police Department, Traffic Division regarding planning activities related to the parade.

Access to senior members of the Command Staff of the Torrance Police Department for statements regarding the role of the parade in the City and Police Department.

Friday, May 20, 2016  
Day Prior to Parade Day  
Up-close access to military hardware static displays beginning at 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 21, 2016  
Parade Day  
Media van parking available near reviewing stand  
(parking lot in front of City of Torrance Personnel Office, 3231 Torrance Boulevard)

Access to Media Information Center for press statements by the Public Information Officer.  
Team Access to Marshaling Area where media may have access to military equipment and other parade entries.

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag, featuring the stars and stripes in a slightly wavy, draped manner. The stars are white on a dark blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## HISTORY

### CITY OF TORRANCE ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY

The City of Torrance is one of the few cities in the nation designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to host an Armed Forces Day celebration with the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade as a highlight. The Parade has the distinction of being the nation's longest running military parade sponsored by any city.

2016 marks the 57th Annual City of Torrance Armed Forces Day Celebration, a continuation of Torrance's longest-standing tradition of celebrating the legacy and sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces.

This rich tradition began in 1960; Mayor Al Isen, with the help of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, organized the first parade as a tribute to friends and fellow Americans who had served in the Armed Forces. The parade has grown over the years to become one of America's most eagerly awaited demonstrations of patriotism. The Armed Forces Day Parade has drawn up to 100,000 spectators a year to watch as many as 8,000 parade participants march along the parade route from downtown Torrance to City Hall.

In its early history, the celebration began on a Friday evening with a display of military exhibits coupled with a large fireworks show behind City Hall. On Saturday, a daylong display of military hardware and parade floats, all open for public viewing, follows the parade, which has a history of recognizing military war heroes, such as U.S. General Omar Bradley. A Five Star General of the Army, Omar N. Bradley served as the Honorary Grand Marshal in 1969, and was, at the time, the highest-ranking serviceman in the nation. General Bradley commanded the largest American military force ever to serve under one field commander; a force of more than 1,300,000 troops, during the European campaign in World War II.

The Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade is led by a prologue, which includes the Torrance Mounted Posse. Following the Mounted Posse, the Honorary Grand Marshal travels the parade route in his marked vehicle then takes his place in front of the reviewing stand as the Official Reviewing Officer for the parade.

The remainder of the prologue consists of senior commanders of major military installations, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, State-elected officials, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Torrance and other city and county officials. Community leaders from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and Torrance Jaycees and local high school marching bands complete the prologue section.

Following the prologue in the march are several Divisions, comprised mostly of military color guards, military marching bands, high school marching bands, uniformed troops, military drill teams, units from the National Guard, ROTC and military reserve, military vehicles such as tanks and armored personnel carriers, aerospace satellites and exhibits. When weather permits, military aircraft conduct flyovers of the parade route.

For over 50 years, the City of Torrance has faithfully supported the Armed Forces Day Parade despite periodic anti-war sentiments and economic hard times. In 1979, the parade was almost cancelled due to lack of funds brought about by the passage of Proposition 13 in California. However, the public outcry over canceling the event brought the community together and revived the parade, with the assistance of the Torrance Exchange Club. The Torrance Exchange Club raised funds from the community to allow the celebration to continue. In 2016, this Southern California tradition will be enjoyed once again by the community.

Many of the spectators who first viewed the parade as children in the 1960s and 1970s now bring their own children and grandchildren to the weekend's events. This experience helps instill a respect for country and demonstrates appreciation for the sacrifices the men and women of the armed forces have made to secure our freedoms.





# FACT SHEET

- Torrance is one of few cities nationwide sanctioned by the Department of Defense to honor our Armed Forces through an annual Armed Forces Day Parade & Celebration.
- Torrance's Armed Forces Day Parade has the distinction of being the nation's longest running military parade sponsored by any city.
- Last year's celebration brought approximately 60,000 people to crowd the Parade route, and staff is expecting a similar turnout this year.
- The year 2016 marks the 57th year that the City of Torrance has hosted an Armed Forces Day Celebration to honor the nation's military. Torrance's celebration lasts from Friday, May 20, 2016 through Sunday, May 22, 2016.
- On Saturday, May 21, 2016, the parade begins at 1:30 p.m. at Crenshaw Boulevard and travels one-mile west on Torrance Boulevard to Madrona Avenue. It ends approximately at 3:30 p.m.
- Each year, the City of Torrance identifies one branch of the military – the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard – as the “honored service” of the Armed Forces Day Celebration. A high-ranking member of the honored service is invited to serve as Grand Marshal.
- This year's celebration honors the United States Army.
- Besides the Parade highlight, the community can enjoy other festivities during the 57th Annual City of Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade & Celebration, including military exhibits and a free concert by a band from the military.
- Military exhibits on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, support equipment may be viewed at the Del Amo Fashion Center parking lot just east of the Lifestyle Wing, on Friday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 21 from 3 pm. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- A free concert will be held on May 20 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For tickets, contact the Box Office: 310-781-7171. The Box Office will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18 and tickets can be picked up for either concert. The tickets are free and are on a first come, first served basis. There is a limit of four (4) tickets per adult. Ticket holders must be in their seats 15 minutes prior to show time or the seat will be made available to their patrons.
- The Torrance legacy of the Armed Forces Day celebration began under the leadership of Mayor Albert Isen in 1960 and has grown throughout the years to be considered a Southern California tradition. According to Mayor Isen, the parade was to “increase public respect and understanding for military service and promote civic-military relationships.”